

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING:
BENEFITING EMPLOYERS,
EMPLOYEES, AND POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION

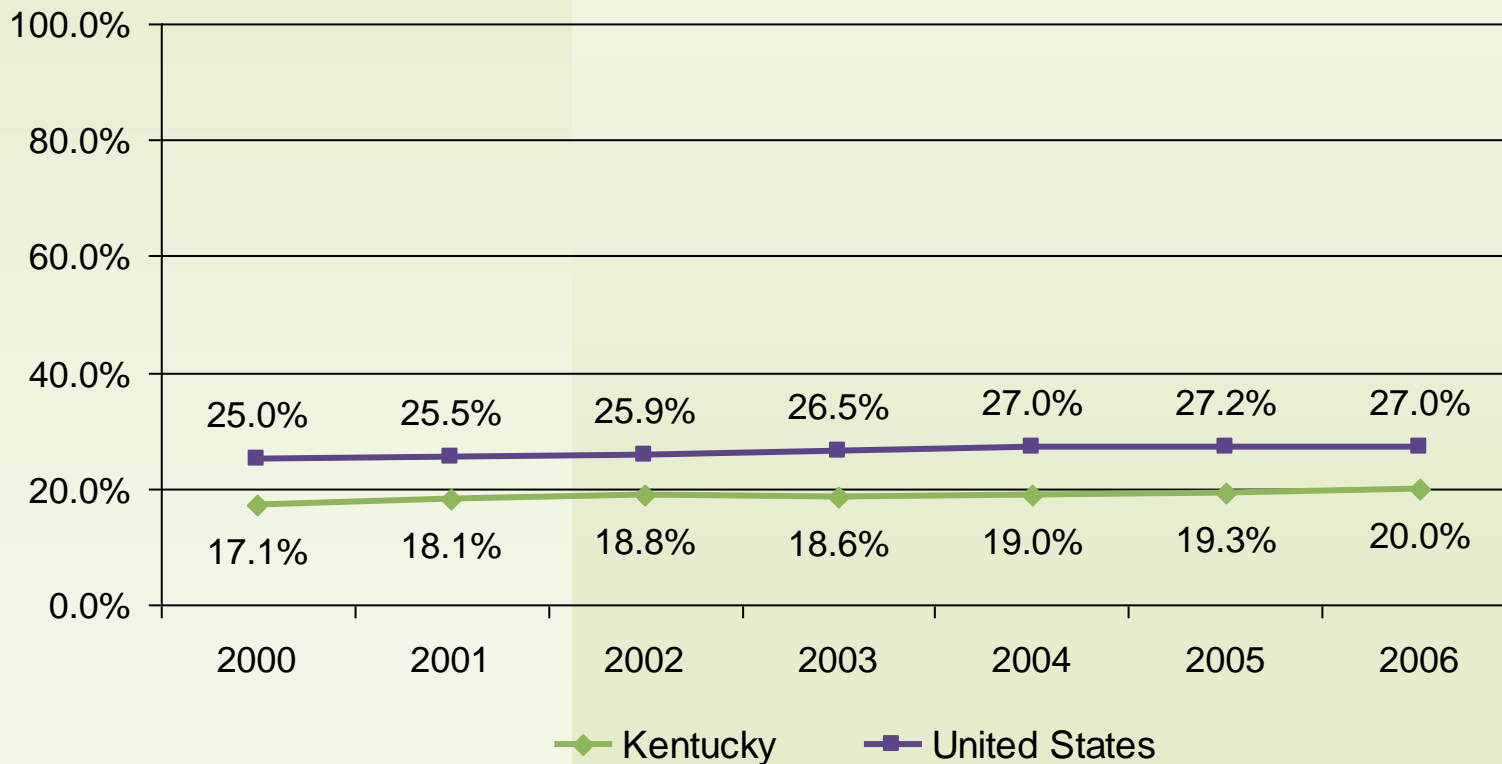


KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION



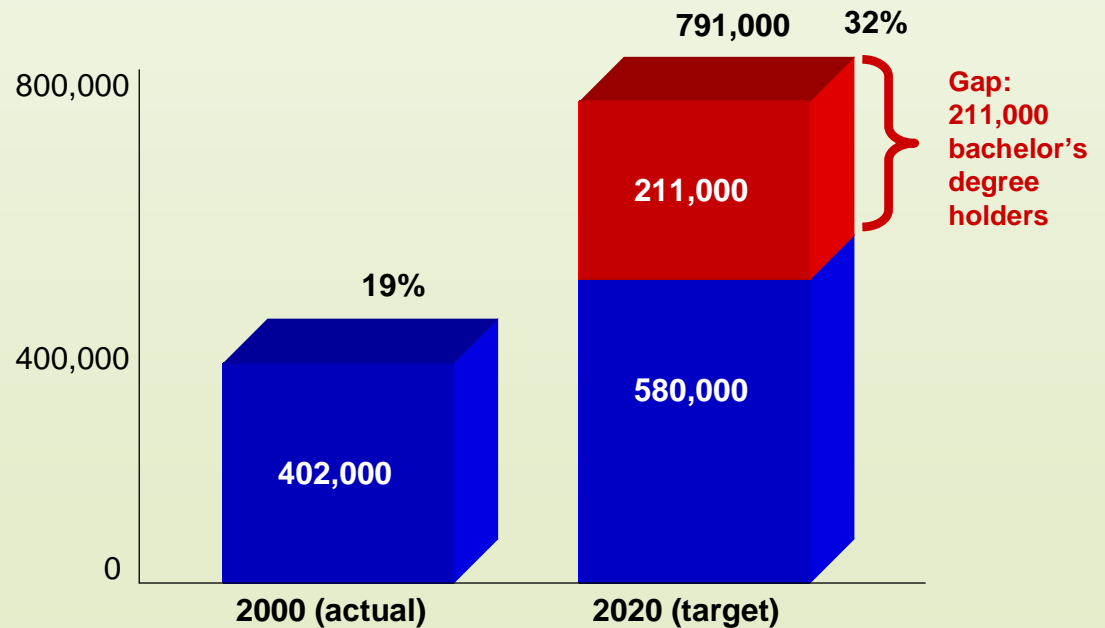
KENTUCKY LAGS NATIONAL AVERAGE

Percentage of Population with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Ages 25 and Older



FOCUS ON DEGREE ATTAINMENT

Goal: To achieve postsecondary education reform goals, Kentucky must double the number of people with at least a bachelor's degree by 2020



**GROWTH OPPORTUNITY:
500,000 WORKING-AGE ADULTS WITH SOME COLLEGE
BUT NO BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

Area of Geographic Responsibility	25-64, Some college, no degree 2000	25-64, Associate degree 2000	25-64, Total, Some college or Associate degree
EKU	44,872	12,100	56,972
KSU	17,884	4,963	22,847
Morehead	44,332	12,561	56,893
Murray	50,082	14,489	64,571
NKU	45,933	12,058	57,991
WKU	68,171	19,847	88,018
UK	55,599	17,584	73,183
UofL	103,243	28,878	132,121
TOTAL	430,116	122,480	552,596

GROWTH OPPORTUNITY: 1,000,000 ADULTS WITH NO COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Area of Geographic Responsibility	Less than HS diploma or equivalent	HS diploma or equivalent	HS diploma, equivalent, or less
EKU	95,587	110,129	205,716
KSU	15,217	31,639	46,856
Morehead	75,781	96,037	171,818
Murray	41,024	85,776	126,800
NKU	30,039	73,272	103,311
WKU	39,794	82,470	122,264
UK	60,206	130,353	190,559
UofL	77,505	143,210	220,715
TOTAL	435,153	752,886	1,188,039

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT ADULT LEARNERS

About 800 survey respondents indicated they are very or somewhat likely to consider returning to college in next three years.

BIGGEST CONCERNS

- ❖ Managing time between family and classes
- ❖ Managing time between work and classes
- ❖ Financing college courses

INTEREST IN COLLEGE SERVICES

- ❖ **Credit for prior learning**
- ❖ Programs on a faster than normal schedule
- ❖ Financial aid

WHAT IS CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT is the evaluation for college credit of the knowledge and skills gained from experience, including work, travel, hobbies, civic activities, and volunteer service.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING is the award of college credit as a result of this evaluation.

SOME BENEFITS OF CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

EMPLOYERS

- ❖ Links workplace training to postsecondary education
- ❖ Helps employees obtain the degree in a shorter time
- ❖ Saves money in tuition assistance programs
- ❖ Helps retain employees

STUDENTS

- ❖ Validates knowledge gained outside the classroom
- ❖ Decreases time it takes to get degree

INSTITUTIONS

- ❖ Increases pool of students
- ❖ Improves links to private and governmental sectors

METHODS OF PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

- ❖ Nationally standardized exams in specific disciplines
- ❖ Challenge exams for specific courses at individual institutions
- ❖ Evaluations of non-college programs
- ❖ Individualized assessments

STANDARDIZED NATIONAL EXAMS

SEVERAL TYPES OF EXAMS

- ❖ CLEP, DSST, AP, and others

ADVANTAGES

- ❖ Relatively inexpensive
- ❖ No effect on GPA if student fails test

DISADVANTAGES

- ❖ Defined testing times and locations
- ❖ Limited subjects

CHALLENGE EXAMS

TYPES OF CHALLENGE EXAMS

- ❖ Final exams
- ❖ Demonstrations
- ❖ Simulations
- ❖ Case studies
- ❖ Interviews or oral presentations

ADVANTAGES

- ❖ Could be available in many subjects, depending on university policy
- ❖ Course-specific, clear learning objectives

DISADVANTAGES

- ❖ Difficult to maintain security of exam
- ❖ Not all courses have comprehensive exams

EVALUATION OF NON-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

ACE COLLEGE CREDIT RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Workplace training
- ❖ Professional examinations
- ❖ Military occupations and training

ADVANTAGES

- ❖ Review by well-regarded organization (ACE)
- ❖ Uniform standards for evaluation of training

DISADVANTAGES

- ❖ Cost to organization requesting evaluation
- ❖ Limited number of programs have been evaluated
- ❖ Credit award not guaranteed

INDIVIDUALIZED ASSESSMENT

PORTFOLIO OF PRIOR EXPERIENCES

- ❖ Goal statements
- ❖ Learning chronology
- ❖ Prior learning narrative or competency statements
- ❖ Supporting documentation

ADVANTAGES

- ❖ Student reflects on learning history
- ❖ Integrated into postsecondary learning activity
- ❖ Student gains clearer understanding of relationship between school and work

DISADVANTAGES

- ❖ Time-consuming
- ❖ Credit award not guaranteed

QUALITY ASSURANCE STANDARDS

- ❖ Credit or its equivalent should be awarded only for learning, and not for experience.
- ❖ Assessment should be based on standards and criteria for the level of acceptable learning that are both agreed upon and made public.
- ❖ Assessment should be treated as an integral part of learning, not separate from it, and should be based on an understanding of learning processes.
- ❖ The determination of credit awards and competence levels must be made by appropriate subject matter and academic or credentialing experts.
- ❖ Credit or other credentialing should be appropriate to the context in which it is awarded and accepted.

NEXT STEPS

If you're interested in learning more about credit for prior learning, including evaluating your workplace training programs, contact:

MELISSA BELL
SENIOR ASSOCIATE FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

MELISSA.BELL@KY.GOV

502.573.1555 EXT. 357

THANK YOU

